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Ampthill Rural District Council.

REPORTS

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES

FOR

THE YEAR 1925.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS

OF THE

AMPTHILL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Twenty-eighth Annual Report.

This is a Survey Report. The past year will be reviewed, and a comparison made with the condition and progress of things during the preceding four years.

This is the first year a Report of this kind has been issued.

I will first of all deal with the population of the entire District.

At the 1921 Census, this was found to be 19,190 for the civilian population; it is now estimated by the Ministry to be 19,140, which is a reduction of 50 on the Census estimate, and 110 on their estimate of 1924. This is not likely to increase to any marked extent if dependent on agriculture. 19,140 is the figure I shall use for all statistical calculations in this Report.

I now give the population of the various parishes, with a comparison of the last two censuses:—

	1911.	1921.	
Aspley Guise	1227	1230	+ 3
Aspley Heath	572	522	- 50
Battesden	66	71	+ 5
Clophill	916	910	- 6
Cranfield	1199	1059	- 140
Eversholt	609	504	- 105
Flitton	463	443	- 20
Flitwick	1424	1640	+ 216
Gravenhurst (Upper & Lower)	377	351	- 26
Harlington	609	554	- 55
Haynes	676	705	+ 29
Higham Gobion	76	59	- 17
Houghton Conquest	535	560	+ 25
Hulcote	49	57	+ 8
Husborne Crawley	365	359	- 6
Lidlington	502	498	- 4
Marston Moretaine	1025	987	- 38
Maulden	1101	1165	+ 64
Millbrook	201	195	- 6
Milton Bryan	199	183	- 16
Pottesgrove	108	100	- 8
Pulloxhill	419	374	- 45
Ridgmount	540	496	- 44
Salford	136	125	- 11
Shillington	1588	1625	+ 37
Silsoe	561	585	+ 24
Steppingley	254	264	+ 10
Tingrith	129	129	-
Toddington	1948	2001	+ 53
Westoning	494	521	+ 27
Woburn	1122	1062	- 60

The district is almost entirely an agricultural one.

There are, however, other industries, but these are of a minor character, and only employ a small proportion of the male inhabitants. A fair number of the inhabitants find employment out of the district, going to and fro to their work on motor lorries or bicycles.

The geological strata are varied in character. On the North-West, we have Oxford Clay, which covers that portion of our district occupied by the parishes of Houghton Conquest, Marston Moretaine, Lidlington, Cranfield, Holcut, and Salford. Further South, and coming into the district of Clophill, we have the outcrop of the Lower Greensand, which extends to the extreme West of our area, passing through the following parishes, viz., Clophill, Silsoe, Flitwick, Flitton, Maulden, Millbrook, Steppingley, Haynes, Westoning, Eversholt, Tingrith, Ridgmount, Potsgrove, Aspley Heath, Aspley Guise, and Woburn. Still further to the South, we have gault, which covers the following parishes, viz., Shillington, Gravenhurst, Higham Gobion, Pulloxhill, Harlington, Toddington, Milton Bryan, and Battlesden.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area, Acres ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	68,195
Population, 1925	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19,140
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,072
Number of families or separate occupiers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,134
Rateable value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£91,112
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£379 12s. 8d.

DEATH-RATE. I will first of all take the Death-rate of the District. The corrected number of Deaths is 249, which compares favourably with 306 of the previous year, and gives a Death-rate of 13. It, however, compares rather unfavourably with the rest of England and Wales, which is 12·2. This comparatively high Death-rate is not due to any unhealthiness of the District, but is due to the large proportion of elderly people in the population, amongst whom the mortality is high.

I will now give the Death-rates of the four preceding years, viz. :—

1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
15·3	...	14·3	...

I will now classify the Deaths according to ages.

Under one year of age ...	18	Between 10 and 15 ...	5
Between 1 and 2 ...	Nil.	,, 15 „ 20 ...	3
„ 2 „ 3 ...	3	„ 20 „ 35 ...	11.
„ 3 „ 4 ...	3	„ 35 „ 45 ...	3
„ 4 „ 5 ...	1	„ 45 „ 65 ...	35
„ 5 „ 10 ...	2	Over 65 ...	165

As usual, considerably more than one-half attained the age of 65 years.

BIRTH-RATE. I now come to this important matter. As the number of births is 292, it gives a Birth-rate of 15·2. This is extremely low, and compares most unfavourably with the rest of England and Wales, which is 18·3. It is, however, still over the Death-rate.

The number of children who died under one year of age is 18, which gives an infantile mortality of 61·6. The number of illegitimate children is 12, which shows that out of every 1,000 children born, 41 were born out of wedlock.

I will now give the Birth-rate for the four previous years, viz. :—

1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
18·4	...	19·3.	...

You will thus see that the Birth-rate has seriously diminished since 1922.

CANCER. The deaths from this disease amounted to 40, which is an increase on the previous year, and is the largest number I have ever recorded in a single year. This disease shows a tendency to increase. No specific has yet been discovered.

I will now give the number recorded during the preceding four years, viz. :—

1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
32	... 26	... 36	... 39.

The cases are distributed over the following parishes, viz., Aspley Guise, 5; Clophill, 3; Eversholt, 1; Flitton, 3; Flitwick, 2; Husborne Crawley, 1; Haynes, 2; Marston, 1; Maulden, 1; Millbrook, 2; Marston Moretaine, 1; Lidlington, 1; Silsoe, 2; Shillington, 8; Toddington, 1; Tingrith, 1; and Woburn, 5.

The following are the organs affected:—

Aesophagus ...	2	Liver	...	2
Bowel	...	Lungs	...	1
Breast	...	Stomach	...	15
Face	...	Tongue	...	1
Glands	...	Uterus	...	3
Larynx	...			
	2			

Twenty of the deaths occurred amongst males, and a similar number amongst females. The ages at which death occurred varied from 40 to 88.

INFLUENZA. Six deaths have occurred from this disease; a marked contrast to 20 of the previous year. No epidemic of any importance has appeared, and the deaths occurred during the early part of the year.

TUBERCULOSIS. The deaths from this disease number 14. In 13 the lungs were affected.

My Council have taken the following steps to prevent the spread of the disease:—

- (a) All houses where deaths have occurred are disinfected.
- (b) Printed instructions are sent in all cases.
- (c) Pocket spittoons and paper handkerchiefs are given to all poor people affected with this disease.
- (d) Defrays the cost of examination of the sputum in doubtful cases.

As this Report is circulated in all the villages (a copy being sent to each Parish Council) I think it necessary that the following (which was in last year's Report) should be again included:—

The County Council Sanatorium at Muggerhanger is an excellently equipped building, and is under the able supervision of Dr. Welch, the County Tuberculosis Officer. It is of great advantage, as the County is not so dependent on Sanatoria belonging to other bodies, and is able to remove patients more expeditiously. I cannot do better than repeat what I have said on previous occasions, viz., if the onslaught on this disease is to be successful, the treatment of all Pulmonary cases will have to be grappled with. This disease will have to be diagnosed early, and the patients sent to Sanatoria, as the chance of a cure gets less and less as the disease advances. Advanced cases in small households will have to be removed from their surroundings to prevent its spread. There is, I know, a sentimental objection to this, but sentiment must be swept aside when the good of the community is at stake. It is the advanced cases, attended with a great deal of expectoration, that are the menace to the people who live in close proximity to them: early cases are less dangerous. The main preventive and curative agent for the disease is, a liberal supply of fresh air. Most of the cottages in this district have only two bedrooms, and these are, as a rule, small; the cubic space per head is thus in many cases very limited, and unless the air can be frequently renewed, the atmosphere becomes very polluted. Under the circumstances it is highly necessary that bedroom windows should be kept open day and night, and the chimneys not blocked, as they are in some instances.

The veterinary inspection of cows is now undertaken by the County Council.

The number of Tuberculosis notifications received during the year (excluding those on Forms C and D) amounted to 24, which is a diminution on 33 of the previous year. Of these, 22 are Pulmonary; glands, 1; and spine, 1. They are distributed over the following parishes, viz., Aspley Guise, 3; Aspley Heath, 1; Clophill, 2; Flitwick, 6; Lidlington, 2; Millbrook, 1; Houghton Conquest, 1; Cranfield, 1; Flitton, 1; Maulden, 3; Marston, 1; Shillington, 1; and Westoning, 1.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	New Cases.		Deaths.	
	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.
Under 1
Between 1 and 5	1	...
,, 5 „ 10
,, 10 „ 15	1	...
,, 15 „ 20	...	2	...	2
,, 20 „ 25	...	5	...	3
,, 25 „ 35	...	7	...	3
,, 35 „ 45	...	5	...	1
,, 45 „ 65	...	3	...	1
Over 65
Totals	22	2	13	1

I now come to the remaining notifiable Zymotic Diseases. The total number brought to my notice was 70.

DIPHTHERIA. Twenty-one cases of this disease have occurred, and these are distributed over the following parishes, viz., Flitwick, 16; Clophill, 1; Maulden, 1; Steppingley, 1; Toddington, 1; and Westoning, 1. Most of the cases occurring at Flitwick, were during the latter half of the year. Three deaths have occurred from this disease. The Schick test has not been used to any appreciable extent in this district.

ERYSIPelas. Eight cases of this disease have been reported. As I have before remarked, I fail to see the utility of notifying this disease.

ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA. Only one case, and that at Flitwick. This case was medically attended at home, and I am glad to say she completely recovered, so that she was able to return to work.

ENTERIC FEVER. No case of this disease has been notified.

MALARIA. No case has occurred, and one may say this disease has practically died out in this country.

OPIHTHALMIA NEONATORUM. One case only, and that at Marston Moretaine. The case was medically attended at home. Sight not affected.

PUERPERAL SEPTICAEMIA. No cases notified.

PNEUMONIA. Twenty-three cases. The majority of these cases occurred during the late Winter and early Spring. Eleven deaths were recorded.

SCARLET FEVER. Sixteen cases were notified. They were spread over the following parishes, viz., Aspley Guise, 1; Flitwick, 9; Harlington, 1; Houghton Conquest, 2; Milton Bryan, 1; Shillington, 1; and Woburn, 1. I am not aware that the Dick test has been used for this disease in the district.

SMALL-POX. No vaccinations or re-vaccinations have been performed by me acting as Medical Officer of Health, although I am willing to act in times of emergency.

NON-NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

CHICKEN-POX. Epidemics of this disease have broken out in the Schools of the following parishes, viz., Cranfield, Harlington, Lidlington, Tingrith, Toddington, and Aspley Heath.

MUMPS. Epidemics of this disease have occurred in the following Schools, viz., Aspley Heath, Clophill, Cranfield, Flitwick, Marston, Haynes, and Westoning.

MEASLES. This disease has occurred in the following Schools, viz., Aspley Heath, Harlington, and Millbrook. No deaths have occurred from this disease.

ZYMOTIC DIARRHOEA. There was almost an entire absence of this disease, only two deaths being registered. This is due to the conditions favourable to this disease being absent, viz., drought and high temperature. During the months of July, August and September (when this disease is most prevalent) the temperature was moderate, and the rainfall well over the average, viz., July, 2·56 in.; August, 2·42 in.; September, 2·87 in.

The following Notifications (exclusive of Tuberculosis) under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act, have been received:—

Amphill	Diphtheria	20	Shillington	Pneumonia	11	13
	Encephalitis Lethargica	1		Scarlet Fever	2	
	Erysipelas	2				
	Pneumonia	6				
Cranfield	Scarlet Fever	10	Woburn	Diphtheria	1	8
	Diphtheria	nil		Erysipelas	3	
	Erysipelas	3		Scarlet Fever	4	
	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1				
	Pneumonia	6				
				Total	70	

I will now give the number of notifications received during the previous four years:—

1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
117	...	130	...
		88	...
			60

I will now give a complete list in one block of the number of cases notified (other than Tuberculosis), and the proportion removed to Hospital.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Diphtheria	21	19	3
Enteric Fever	Nil	...	...
Small Pox	Nil	...	...
Scarlet Fever	16	13	...
Puerperal Fever	Nil	...	...
Pneumonia	23	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	1	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	1	...	...
Erysipelas	8	...	...

All the cases of Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever that could not be properly isolated at home, were removed to Hospital.

I now mass the cases of the entire District together, and give the seasons of the year in which they occurred:—

1st Quarter.	2nd Quarter.	3rd Quarter.	4th Quarter.
Diphtheria 1	Diphtheria Nil	Diphtheria 5	Diphtheria 15
Pneumonia 12	Erysipelas 2	Erysipelas 2	Encephalitis } 1
Scarlet Fever 1	Pneumonia 5	Scarlet Fever 1	Lethargica }
	Scarlet Fever 7		Erysipelas 4
			Ophthalmia } 1
			Neonatorum }
			Pneumonia 6
			Scarlet Fever 7
14	14	8	34

As mentioned in previous Reports, disinfectants and printed instructions are supplied gratuitously in all cases of Infectious Notifiable Disease, and at the end of the illness the rooms which the patient occupied are thoroughly disinfected with Formic Aldehyde, free of charge. If the patient is removed to Hospital, the house is disinfected immediately after the removal. In addition to the above, houses where deaths have occurred from Cancer and Phthisis are disinfected. The precautions which are taken in respect to the latter disease have been previously mentioned

in this Report. All Schools are disinfected should they be considered a factor in the spread of disease, either notifiable or non-notifiable. The cost of this is refunded by the County Council. In regard to Diphtheria, the Council defray the cost of Antitoxin when used as a prophylactic, in all cases, and pay the medical man administering same 2/6 if patient lives within the one-mile radius, and 1/- extra for each additional mile or portion of a mile. The same advantages are given to medical men when using Antitoxin as a curative agent on poor people. Besides which, the Council undertake to pay for the examination of Diphtheric Swabs, and Widal's Reaction (for the detection of Enteric Fever). A Horse Ambulance is also provided for the removal of the cases. There is no Ambulance for non-infectious and accident cases, but as most villages have a motor-car, there is no difficulty in getting them removed to Hospital.

RAINFALL.

The Rainfall is again included on account of its influence in regard to water supply and flushing of sewers and ditches, also its bearing on the causation of various diseases, especially those of the respiratory organs and Zymotic Diarrhoea.

Jan. in.	Feb. in.	Mar. in.	Apr. in.	May in.	June in.	July in.	Aug. in.	Sept. in.	Oct. in.	Nov. in.	Dec. in.
1'47	2'52	'90	1'74	2'26	'04	2'56	2'42	2'87	3'39	1'58	1'83

Rain fell on 164 days.

Total for the year ... 23'58 inches.

This is about the average for the district. This has very kindly been taken for me by Mr. Hobbs, of the Fruit Farm, Ridgmont, and is fairly typical of the entire Ampthill area. Size of gauge, 5 in.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

HOSPITALS PROVIDED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

SMALL-POX. Accommodation for eight beds (four for each sex). Hospital situated at Steppingley, about 500 yards from the other Infectious Diseases Hospital.

DIPHTHERIA, ENTERIC, AND SCARLET FEVER. Hospital at Steppingley, with accommodation for 20 beds.

TUBERCULOSIS. Accommodation at Muggerhanger for 84 patients.

In regard to Maternity, the Borough of Bedford and Luton intend making provision, and these Hospitals will, I believe, be for the use of the rural districts as well as the above towns.

No Institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants, and homeless children in the area.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRES. There is a centre at Ampthill, which is fairly well attended.

TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARIES. There are none in this area, but the Dispensaries of Bedford and Luton are used by the inhabitants of this district. Both are provided by the County Council.

TREATMENT CENTRES FOR VENEREAL DISEASES. Centres are provided at Bedford and Luton for the use of the entire County.

NURSING.

Professional Nursing is not provided by the Council, either for General or Infectious Disease. In several of the villages this is provided for by the voluntary subscriptions of the inhabitants. The Guardians, however, generally give an annual subscription to these Associations, and the County Council help to make up the deficit if every attempt has been made in the area concerned, without avail.

MIDWIVES.

No subsidy is given to practising Midwives by the Local Authority. The number of Midwives practising in the area is 6.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health: KILHAM ROBERTS, M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.). Part-time Officer.

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor: LEONARD FOSTER, M.I.M. and C.Y.E.; Certificate of the R.S.I. Whole-time Officer.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector: THOS. A. HAWTIN, A.R.S.I.; Certificate of the R.S.I. Whole-time Officer.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

The following samples have been submitted to the County Analyst during the year:—

Articles Submitted.	Genuine Samples.	Articles Submitted.	Genuine Samples.
Baking Powder ...	3	Lemon Squash ...	1
Balsam of Aniseed ...	1	Margarine ...	1
Butter ...	2	Milk ...	23
Coffee ...	1	Mustard Powder ...	1
Cream ...	1	Pudding Powder ...	1
Currants ...	1	Salmon and Shrimp Paste	1
Gingerbread ...	1	Suet ...	1
Gravy Salt ...	1	Tea ...	1
Jam ...	1	Vinegar ...	1
Lard ...	2		

ADULTERATED SAMPLES. Two samples of milk at Flitwick were found to be deficient in fat 6 per cent., and a sample at Millbrook deficient in fat 2 per cent.

PERMISSIVE ACTS, BYE-LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

The following are in force in this District, viz.:—

Building Bye-laws in force in this district (approved May 12th, 1924).

Regulations under the Dairies and Milkshops Order of 1885 (adopted October 18th, 1900; in force on or after November, 1900).

Bye-laws in regard to slaughter-houses for all the District.

Certain sections of the Public Health Amendment Act, 1890 (adopted December, 1900); also of the Public Health Amendment Act, 1907 (adopted 1908).

Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, came into force April 1st, 1925. As the work of meat inspection is very onerous and exacting, it is highly necessary that a whole-time Meat Inspector should be appointed if the work is to be carried out.

WATER SUPPLY.

The majority of our villages obtain their supply from wells, but the following are an exception to this:—Haynes gets its supply from the Ampthill Water Works; and Aspley Guise, Aspley Heath, Husborne Crawley, Ridgmont and Woburn, get theirs from that of Woburn Sands. The water from the wells is very variable in quality, and in some instances shews signs of pollution, owing to the sides not being properly protected. Further details in regard to our water supply may be seen in the Inspector's Report.

RIVERS AND STREAMS. There is a certain number of our streams polluted, but not to a marked extent; at any rate, not sufficient to kill fish life. The main source of pollution is the effluent from our ditches.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

In my opinion, the time has come for the adoption of a system of Sewerage and Water Supply at Flitwick. At present, a large proportion of the wells are polluted, mainly owing to the soil being highly manured around this village, and the large number of cesspools in use. The sewer at Clophill needs extension.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The ordinary privy vault is gradually being replaced by the pail and earth type of closet in all the villages. I am unable to give the exact number of each. In the following villages the Water Closet is in vogue, viz., Aspley Heath, Aspley Guise and Woburn.

SCAVENGING.

The following villages are carrying out a system of scavenging, viz., Aspley Guise, Aspley Heath, Flitwick, Toddington, Westoning and Woburn. Details of this are given in the Sanitary Inspector's Report. A system of scavenging is necessary for Clophill.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Details given in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

SCHOOLS.

There is not much fault to be found with the water supply of the Public Elementary Schools.

The following Schools have been closed during the year, viz., Shillington, on account of Influenza ; and Flitwick (mixed), on account of Diphtheria.

With reference to alterations and improvements carried out at the Schools, particulars of these are given below :—

Installation of heating by hot water at Gravenhurst. Internal renovations—Gravenhurst, Marston Shelton, Maulden (Infants), Millbrook.

In addition to these, playgrounds have been re-surfaced at Gravenhurst, Houghton Conquest, Harlington, Marston Shelton, Toddington and Westoning Schools.

The sanitation and structure of the Schools is well looked after by the County Council.

In regard to infected scholars, and contacts of both notifiable and non-notifiable disease, the rules and directions of the County Education Committee are strictly carried out, relating to exclusion from School.

The scholars are periodically inspected by the School Medical Officer of the County Council.

HOUSING.

GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS.

- (a) *Extent of Shortage or Excess of Houses.* There is a shortage of houses in the following parishes, viz., Aspley Guise, Clophill, Cranfield, Gravenhurst, Maulden, Shillington and Toddington. In regard to the latter, the Council have decided to erect 8 houses.
- (b) My Council intend to make an enquiry into all those parishes where complaints are received of a shortage. Some few years ago the Council called together representatives from every village in order to find out their requirements.
- (c) No information as to any important change in population has been received.

OVERCROWDING.

- (a) There are occasional cases of overcrowding in most of the parishes. As the number of persons per house is under 4, one cannot say overcrowding is general in the district.
- (b) Large families are the causes in practically every instance.
- (c) The measures taken for remedying this state of affairs are, firstly, to recommend the parents to board some of their children with relations. If not successful in this request, ask them to get a larger house (which, I may say, is not often available, and, if so, is generally beyond their financial capabilities).

FITNESS OF HOUSES.

- (a) *General standard of houses in the area.* This, on the whole, is good, although there are exceptions.
- (b) The main defects in the houses are structural.
- (c) The structural defects are, in the main, due to the neglect of the owners, although the cleanliness lies entirely with the tenant.
- (d) Amongst poor owners there is very often found great difficulty in getting them to carry out repairs or alterations. The Inspector then tries to make an agreement to get them to carry out a portion each year until the job is completed.
- (e) *Water supply.* If the water of an entire village is insufficient and of poor quality, we endeavour to get a water supply laid on ; for instance, I may mention the parish of Haynes. In instances where a single well is polluted, we ask the owners to sink another one.

Closet accommodation and refuse disposal have both been mentioned in a previous part of this Report, and the means taken to improve them.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b)) ...	...	...	...	...	65
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts—					
(i) By the Local Authority ...	...	...	...	...	—
(ii) By other bodies or persons ...	...	...	...	...	30

I. Unfit Dwelling-houses:—

Inspection—

(1) Total number of Dwelling Houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	511
(2) Number of Dwelling Houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	443
(3) Number of Dwelling Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	I
(4) Number of Dwelling Houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	511

2. Remedy of defects without Service of Formal Notices:—

Number of defective Dwelling Houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ...	501
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3. Action under Statutory Powers:—

A. Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.

(1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	5
(2) Number of Dwelling Houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices—	
(a) By Owners	5
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ...	—
(3) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by Owners of intention to close	—

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	4
(2) Number of Dwelling Houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—	
(a) By Owners	4

C. Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	I
(2) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	I
(3) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the Dwelling Houses having been rendered fit	I
(4) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	—
(5) Number of Dwelling Houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	—

I will now give a list of the number of houses erected during the last five years, viz.:—

1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
73	... 54	... 29	... 65	65

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

- (1) *Action taken as to Tuberculous Milk and Tuberculous Cattle.* This matter is in the hands of the County Council.
- (2) No licenses have been granted for the sale of milk under special designations.
- (3) No marking under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924. All condemned meat buried.
- (4) There are no public slaughter-houses in the district.
- (5) Inspections are made under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, as regards stalls, shops, stores and vehicles.

In regard to private slaughter-houses, the following table is given:—

	In 1920.	In January, 1925.	In December, 1925.
Registered	27	24	19
Licensed	5	15	16
	—	—	—
	32	39	35

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1925, for the Rural District of AMPHILL

on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS OR INSPECTORS OF NUISANCES.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted. (4)
FACTORIES	none	none	none
(Including Factory Laundries)			
WORKSHOPS	114	25	none
(Including Workshop Laundries)			
WORKPLACES	No record of	inspections	kept
(Other than Outworkers' premises)			
Total	114	25	

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars. (1)	Number of defects.			Number of offences in respect to which Prosecu- tions were instituted. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—*</i>				
Want of cleanliness	25	25	nil	nil
Want of ventilation	—			
Overcrowding	—			
Want of drainage of floors	—			
Other nuisances	8	8	nil	nil
Sanitary accommodation { insufficient				
{ unsuitable or defective ...				
{ not separate for sexes ...				
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101)				
Other offences				
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921.)				
Total	33	33	—	—

*Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901,
as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

(Signature) KILHAM ROBERTS,

Medical Officer of Health.

March 26, 1926.

NOTE.—The Factory and Workshop Act, 1901 (s. 132), requires the Medical Officer of Health in his Annual Report to the District Council to report specifically on the administration of that Act in workshops and workplaces, and to send a copy of his Annual Report, or so much of it as deals with this subject, to the Secretary of State (Home Office). If the Annual Report is presented otherwise than in print, it is unnecessary to include in the copy sent to the Home Office the portions which do not relate to factories, workshops, workplaces or homework.

HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATION.

SMALL-POX HOSPITAL. We have had no occasion to use this Hospital.

Dr. Langham Garner, the Medical Superintendent of the following Hospital, has kindly furnished me with an account of its administration, viz.:—

"ISOLATION HOSPITAL FOR DIPHTHERIA, ENTERIC AND SCARLET FEVERS. Only 33 cases were admitted during the year, viz., Diphtheria 19, and Scarlet Fever 14 (including one urban case). The Scarlet Fever patients were chiefly from Flitwick, and were admitted during the early part of the year, the wards being empty from July 20—Nov. 24. The Diphtheria Wards were closed from Feb. 5—July 19, and although the number of patients was small, the type of disease was severe, and I regret to report 3 deaths, two of whom were from one family in Flitwick; the other, a child (age 5), from Clophill, in which case Tracheotomy was done with only temporary relief."

VACCINATION.

I now give the Births and Vaccinations of each sub-district:—

		Births.		Vaccinations.
Ampthill	...	99	...	27
Cranfield	...	56	...	9
Shillington	...	42	...	17
Woburn	...	95	...	45

As usual, with the exception of the Woburn sub-district, Vaccination has become practically a dead letter. This, no doubt, is due to the inability of the people to understand the scientific aspect of the question, combined with the ease with which exemption certificates can be obtained. In addition to this, there is the misrepresentation of the anti-vaccinationists. As the total number of Births is 292, and the Vaccinations 98, it shows a percentage of 32.9, which, although low, is higher than it has been for some years. This increase is no doubt due to the prevalence of Small-pox in various parts of the country. As I wrote last year, I think a series of Lectures on this subject, given periodically in each district, would have a beneficial effect.

During the last twelve months, your Inspector and Assistant Inspector have carried out their duties with great tact and skill. They have, indeed, got through a great amount of work.

In conclusion, I must again thank the Clerk, who is always most willing to help in anything concerning the sanitation of the District.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your most obedient Servant,

KILHAM ROBERTS, M.O.H.

March 29th, 1926.

AMPTHILL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Summary of defects and other matters dealt with during the year:—

1. Defective and Insufficient Closets...	...	...	...	...	83
2. " " Ashpits...	...	...	...	...	16
3. " " Drains ...	...	...	...	...	48
4. Damp Premises...	...	...	...	...	11
5. Defective and Insufficient Spouting	...	...	...	...	27
6. Overcrowded Dwellings ...	...	...	...	...	2
7. Accumulations of Offensive Matter	...	...	...	...	27
8. Cleansing and Limewashing	...	...	...	...	18
9. Repairs to Roofs and Chimney Heads	...	...	...	...	67
10. Sundry Structural Repairs to Houses	...	...	...	...	47
11. Dwellings with Insufficient Light and Ventilation	...	...	...	...	11
12. " with Defective or Insufficient Water Supply	...	...	...	...	4
13. " Windows	...	...	...	...	50
14. Wells and Pumps Cleansed and Repaired	...	...	...	...	21
15. New Houses received Water Certificates	...	...	...	...	54
16. Defective Rain Water Tanks	...	...	...	...	4
17. " Yard Paving ...	...	...	...	...	1
18. " Pigstyes	...	...	...	...	3
19. " Urinals	...	...	...	...	2
20. " Sinks	...	...	...	...	4
21. Rooms Disinfected after Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	46
22. " " " Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	20
23. " " " Cancer	...	...	...	...	46
24. Schools Disinfected	...	...	...	...	1
25. Other cases of Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	19
Total ...					632

The above 632 cases were approximately in connection with 620 premises.

Number of Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	...	11
" Informal " "	...	...	...	...	399
" Complaints received and dealt with...	...	...	...	...	62
Proceedings taken	...	...	...	...	Nil

These figures show a big increase in the amount of sanitary work done. There has also been an increase in the work in connection with Dairies and Cowsheds and the Meat Regulations.

SEWERAGE.

The number of Sewage Tanks in the district remains the same, viz., 16, and they have been periodically attended to. The four miles of Sewer Ditches have been cleaned out as occasion required.

The sixteen miles of Slop Water Sewers have been slightly increased by extensions in the parishes of Pulloxhill, Flitton and Toddington. The whole have been maintained in good order, and flushed when necessary.

The Public Ponds have been cleaned out in Flitwick and Westoning.

No new Vent Pipes have been erected.

WATER SUPPLY.

Forty-one Samples of Water have been taken and sent to the Analyst in connection with Water Certificates for new houses, &c.

The existing three inch water main has been extended in Weathercock Lane and West Hill, Aspley Guise.

The water mains at Haynes have been supervised and flushed. The meters have been kept in repair, and read quarterly. The two inch main has been extended in Silver Lane as far as the Main Road. Three new connections have been made.

The public wells in Maulden and Clophill have received attention.

A short length of new piping has been laid in Mill Lane, Lidlington.

SCAVENGING WORK.

ASPLEY GUISE, ASPLEY HEATH and WOBURN. There has been no alteration in the system of collection of house refuse in these parishes.

FLITWICK. The work not being carried out satisfactorily by Contract, the Committee decided to do the work by direct labour. This has been satisfactorily done since 1st May, at a cost below the estimate. The total cost for the twelve months has been £335 4s. 3d., equal to £6 9s. od. per week, against £5 4s. 6d. per week in 1924, and £4 8s. 2d. in 1923. The following sanitary receptacles have been emptied, part by contract and part with the Council's own men : 2 ashpits, 12,755 ashbins, 26,983 closet pails, 21 closet vaults, and 213 cesspools. These figures show an increase in the number of cesspools emptied.

TODDINGTON. The work in this parish has been carried out in the same satisfactory manner as heretofore. The total cost has been £220 11s. 5d., or an average of £4 4s. 10d. per week, against £3 10s. 1½d. in 1924, and £4 5s. 3½d. in 1923. The following work has been carried out : 237 ashpits, 9,464 ashbins, 33,280 closet pails, 102 closet vaults, and 28 cesspools. This shows very similar work done as in last year.

WESTONING. The scavenging work has been carried on by direct labour in conjunction with that of the adjoining parish of Flitwick, with advantage to both parishes. The total cost for the year has been £90 7s. od., representing an average of £1 14s. 9d. per week, against £2 1s. 4d. per week last year, and £1 17s. 1d. in 1923. Ninety-five ashbins and 184 closet pails are emptied every week, and in addition, 10 closet vaults and 8 cesspools have been emptied during the year.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

One hundred and fourteen inspections have been made of the following premises : 37 Bakehouses, 35 Slaughterhouses, 3 Knackers' Yards, 32 Butchers' Shops, and 3 Fish Frying Shops.

Three Licenses have been issued for existing slaughterhouses, the licenses of seven others have been renewed, and a license has been granted for one new one erected during the year. Ten existing ones have been registered.

One baker has given up the trade ; two butchers have started, and two have given up.

The Slaughterhouse Byelaws now apply to all the parishes in the district.

Defects have been reported at 12 bakehouses, 5 slaughterhouses, and 8 butchers' shops.

Diseased and unsound beef, mutton and pork has been condemned in five parishes, and 29 carcases of pigs were passed for human food after being in contact with swine fever in two Parishes.

Under the Meat Regulations, 34 notices of regular hours of slaughtering have been received, and 105 notices of irregular slaughtering. Casual visits have been paid to slaughterhouses to ascertain if the Regulations are being carried out.

One certificate as to the provision of fire escapes has been granted to a printing works.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

Two hundred and eleven persons are now on the Register and liable to inspection ; 114 of these are Wholesalers, and 97 are Retailers. This number represents a nett increase of 23 during the year. Only six persons have a dairy and keep no cows.

Defects have been reported at 23 Dairies and 76 Cowsheds. The approximate number of cows milked is 2,460, against 2,229 last year, an increase of 231. A few new cowsheds have been built.

HOUSE-TO-HOUSE INSPECTIONS.

During the past year, the parishes of Flitwick, Westoning and Higham Gobion have been inspected. They necessitated visits to 443 premises, and the details of each house have been brought up to date in seven house-to-house inspection books. A detailed report has been presented to the Council on each parish, dealing with population, house accommodation, structural condition, classified defects, closet accommodation, sewerage, water supply, scavenging, &c.

NEW BUILDINGS.

Plans have been received and approved for :—

28 Houses	4 Motor Garages
37 Bungalows	2 Shops
10 Additions to Houses	1 Public Hall
3 New Drainage to existing Houses	2 Slaughterhouses

Total 87, against 106 last year, and 78 in 1923.

301 Inspections have been made during the year, against 351 last year, and 157 in 1923.

The Subsidy of £75 has been granted to 16 persons in respect to 25 houses, and the Subsidy of £60 to five persons in respect to five houses.

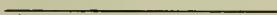
The Housing Return has been sent to the Ministry once a month.

LEONARD FOSTER, Inspector.

THOS. A. HAWTIN, Assistant Inspector.

18th January, 1926.

FLITWICK, BEDFORD.



CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE

Ampthill Rural District in the year 1925.

CAUSES OF DEATH.				Males.	Females.	CAUSES OF DEATH.				Males.	Females.
CIVILIANS ONLY.				CIVILIANS ONLY.							
ALL CAUSES				127	122						
Enteric Fever	...	...	...			Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years)				2	
Small-pox	...	...	...			Appendicitis and Typhlitis					
Measles	...	...	...			Cirrhosis of Liver				2	
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...			Acute and Chronic Nephritis				1	4
Whooping-cough	..	...				Puerperal Sepsis					
Diphtheria	...	...	...	2	1	Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition					
Influenza	...	...	...	2	4	Congenital Debility and Mal- formation, Premature Birth					1
Encephalitis Lethargica	...					Suicide	...	...		2	
Meningococcal Meningitis	...					Other Deaths from Violence				4	3
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	6	7	Other Defined Diseases				37	33
Other Tuberculous diseases	...					Causes ill-defined or unknown					
Cancer, malignant disease	...	20	20			Special Causes (included above)					
Rheumatic Fever	...					Poliomyelitis	...				
Diabetes	...	...	...	1	1	Polioencephalitis	...				
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c.	...	9	14			Deaths of Infants	Total	...		14	4
Heart Disease	...	13	15			under 1 year	Illegitimate				1
Arterio-sclerosis	...	2	5			TOTAL BIRTHS	...	...		143	149
Bronchitis	...	6	5			Legitimate	...	...		137	143
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	8	3			Illegitimate	...	...		6	6
Other Respiratory diseases						Population	...	...		19140	
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum		1									

TABLE X.—Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Analysis of Mortality during the Year 1925.

(Provisional figures. The rates for England and Wales have been calculated on a population estimated to the middle of 1925, while those for the towns have been calculated on populations estimated to the middle of 1924. The Mortality Rates refer to the whole population as regards England and Wales, but only to Civilians as regards London and the groups of Towns.)

	Birth- rate per 1,000 Total Popula- tion.	Annual Death-rate per 1,000 Population.									Rate per 1,000 Births.	Percentage of Total Deaths.			
		All Causes.	Enteric Fever.	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping- cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Violence.		Causes of Death Certified by Registered Medical Practitioners.	Inquest Cases.	Uncertified Causes of Death.	
England and Wales..	18·3	12·2	0·01	0·00	0·13	0·03	0·15	0·07	0·32	0·47	8·4	75	92·1	6·9	1·0
105 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	18·8	12·2	0·01	0·00	0·17	0·03	0·18	0·09	0·30	0·43	10·8	79	92·1	7·3	0·6
157 Smaller Towns (1921 Adjusted Populations 20,000—50,000)	18·3	11·2	0·01	0·00	0·15	0·02	0·14	0·06	0·31	0·38	7·6	74	93·0	5·9	1·1
London	18·0	11·7	0·01	0·00	0·08	0·02	0·19	0·11	0·23	0·46	10·6	67	91·1	8·9	0·0

